

108TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. CON. RES. 347

Expressing the sense of the Congress that a commemorative postage stamp should be issued in honor of William C. Velásquez, the national Hispanic civic leader.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

DECEMBER 8, 2003

Mr. RODRIGUEZ submitted the following concurrent resolution; which was referred to the Committee on Government Reform

CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

Expressing the sense of the Congress that a commemorative postage stamp should be issued in honor of William C. Velásquez, the national Hispanic civic leader.

Whereas William C. Velásquez, affectionately known as “Willie”, paved the way for his generation and future generations of Hispanics to empower themselves through voter registration, political empowerment, economic self-reliance, and education;

Whereas the Southwest Voter Registration Education Project (SVREP), which he founded in 1974, continues Mr. Velásquez’s work of empowering all Americans, through political participation, by its nonpartisan voter registration, voter education, candidate training, and get-out-the-vote efforts;

Whereas the groundbreaking work of Mr. Velásquez and his associates created opportunities for Hispanics to enter into the political arena, and gain a voice for a significant community in American society;

Whereas, upon news of his death, the Congress adjourned its session for the day, symbolically illustrating his single-handed effect on our political process;

Whereas President Clinton posthumously awarded Mr. Velásquez the Presidential Medal of Freedom, stating that he “was driven by an unwavering belief that every American should have a role in our democracy and a share in the opportunities of our great Nation”, adding that Mr. Velásquez “made this a greater country”;

Whereas the Presidential Medal of Freedom, in the words of President Clinton, celebrates those who have changed America for the better and who embody the best qualities in our national character;

Whereas cancer cut short Mr. Velásquez’s pioneering efforts in 1988 at the age of 44;

Whereas Mr. Velásquez was an American leader who truly believed that universal political participation was the best means to hold elected leaders accountable and to hold America to its founding principle of “one Nation, under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all”;

Whereas the issuance of a stamp recognizing his contributions will broaden the historical understanding of the development and struggle of the Hispanic community of the United States and further serve to increase awareness of the influence of Hispanics on our country; and

Whereas postage stamps have been commissioned to honor other significant civic and community leaders in American history: Now, therefore, be it

- 1 *Resolved by the House of Representatives (the Senate*
- 2 *concurring*), That it is the sense of the Congress that—
- 3 (1) a postage stamp should be issued by the
- 4 United States Postal Service in honor of William C.
- 5 Velásquez; and
- 6 (2) the Citizens' Stamp Advisory Committee
- 7 should recommend to the Postmaster General that
- 8 such a postage stamp be issued.

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